Report on NEERI on Congentrix Energy Project at Mangalore

31. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed findings of the report of the National Environment, Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI) in respect of the Mangalore Energy Project of Cogentrix;

(b) the action taken by Govemment on these findings; and

(c) the present status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) The 1000 MW Cogentrix Power Project, Karnataka was accorded environmental clearance in June, 1996 stipulating a number of environment safeguard measures. As per the directives of the Supreme Court, the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur submitted its report in December, 1996 covering five developmental projects including Cogentrix Thermal Power Project. It has been observed in the Report that location of the project is not inconformity with the Coastal Guidelines, coal and ash handling may contaminate ground water, likely impact on aqatic life and western ghats etc. This Ministry has filed an Affidavit in the High Court of Karnataka clarifying the issues raised in NEERI's Report where the case is presently pending.

Marketing of forest produce

32. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements have been made for the collection and marketing of forest produce under the National Policy regarding abolition of the contract system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of the Central and State Governments in the profits made by the Department of Forests from the collection and marketing of produce and the existing rules in :his regard; and

(d) the details of profits made and losses incurred by each State through marketing of such product during the last three years and the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (d) The informations are being collected from State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House.

'Computerised monitoring of Compensatory forestation'

33. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have introduced any computerisation scheme to monitor the implementation of compensatory forestation and other stipulations while clearing the projects of the States;

(b) whether Govemment have found any State Govemment lacking in seriousness in implementation of the said scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has set op seven Regional Offices at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Shillong, Chandigarh & Ranchi with a Headquarter Unit in the Ministry at New Delhi. Ranchi Office yet to be made functional. These Offices are equipped with computers to monitor the implementation of stipulations in respect of compensatory afforestation laid down while clearing the projects under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.

(b) and (c) Not all States have achieved the compensatory afforstation targets in full in respect of all the proposals approved. The State-wise progress of compensatory afforestation as on 30.9.1996 is annexed.